

Youth Advisory Commission Spelling Bee 2016

General Information:

This spelling bee is a community event held to promote learning and for Milpitas youth to have fun. We are not associated with the Scripps National Spelling Bee or any other spelling bee. As a result, we expect great sportsmanship from both participants and audience members. A maximum of forty contestants from first to sixth grade in total and fifteen students per grade will be admitted by a first-come first-serve basis. All spellers will be participating at the same time. Please note that word lists for each grade vary in difficulty.

For example, a first grader word will probably be easier than a third grader. While a third grader word will probably be easier than a fifth grader. We kindly ask everyone in the audience to be respectful and stay quiet when the kids are spelling on stage. Pictures are allowed but please no flash photography, as this can be distracting to the spellers. Also, please do not leave until the very end of the competition because all students will be receiving certificates for their participation.

Competition Rules:

1. All spellers are expected to wear his/her contestant card at all times. (This will be received at the check in table prior to the start of the event.)
2. All spellers are expected to remain seated in the back of the auditorium until his/her contestant number is called. When called, the speller should walk to the center of the stage where he or she will be handed a microphone.
3. After the pronouncer gives the speller a word, the speller will be encouraged to pronounce the word before and after spelling it. The judges may not disqualify a speller for failing to pronounce the word either before or after spelling it. For example, if the word were "cat," the speller would say, "Cat. C-a-t. Cat."
4. The speller may ask the pronouncer to say the word again or to define it. The pronouncer shall grant all such requests until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the speller.
5. Having started to spell a word, a speller may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning. In retracing, however, there cannot be a change of letters of their sequence from those first pronounced. If letters or their sequence is changed in the respelling, the speller will be eliminated.
6. The speller shall not be disqualified for failing to note that a word is capitalized.
7. If a word has one or more homonyms, the pronouncer will indicate which word is to be spelled.
8. The competition shall be conducted in rounds. Each speller remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round shall spell one word in the round.
9. Each speller will have 15 seconds to begin his/her response. Failure to respond in 15 seconds will result in elimination.
10. Upon missing the spelling of a word, a speller immediately drops out of the competition, unless all spellers in one round misspell his/her word. Spellers should not leave the stage until after the round. Even if the speller spells a word incorrectly, the speller should return to his/her seat. After the round, all eliminated spellers will exit to seats in the audience.
11. If only one speller in a round spells a word correctly, a new round shall begin and the speller shall be given an opportunity to spell the next word on the list. If the speller succeeds in correctly spelling the new word, the speller shall be declared the champion. Otherwise, if

the speller does not succeed in correctly spelling the new word, all the spellers at the start of the previous round shall remain in the competition. A new round will begin and spellers will remain in their original spelling order.

12. The rules change once the round consists of two players:

- a. When one of the two spellers misspells a word in one round, the speller who spelled the word correctly shall be given a new word to spell. If that speller spells that word correctly, then the speller shall be declared the champion.
- b. If both spellers misspell their word, then both shall continue in the competition and a new round begins.

13. In the event that more than one speller is tied for 2nd or 3rd place, a spell-off will be held to determine final place.

14. The judges are in complete control of the competition. Their decision shall be final on all questions.